

AN ACT

RELATING TO NURSING HOMES; ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO
DETERMINE NURSING HOME STAFFING NEEDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. NURSING HOMES--ACUITY-BASED STAFFING--PILOT.--

A. The human services department, in cooperation with the department of health and its long-term care quality cabinet acuity-based staffing committee and the state agency on aging shall establish a year-long acuity-based nursing home staffing pilot program in at least one nursing home, contingent on funding, to determine appropriate patient-to-staff ratios.

B. The pilot program shall be based on best practices and shall include experience in existing nursing homes licensed by the department of health.

C. The program shall determine appropriate staffing level needs, including all direct-care nursing and personal care staff, based on acute nursing care in a twenty-four hour day and on a per-shift basis. Evaluation criteria shall thoroughly measure utilization of acute care services and shall include quality of care and consumer satisfaction measures.

D. For purposes of this section, "direct-care nursing and personal care staff" means registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants and others whose primary responsibilities are to provide direct care to nursing home patients and excludes other nursing home staff members and nurses licensed under Chapter 61, Article 3 NMSA 1978, whose primary responsibilities are to provide administrative rather than direct-care services.

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E. The department of health shall present a report detailing results of the pilot program and legislative recommendations to the interim legislative health and human services committee and to the legislative finance committee at their respective July 2004 meetings.

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, ~~2002~~ 2003. HB 578